

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Wednesday, March 25, 1992

Letter denounces "insensitivity"

Students slam dean Gopnik

by Anthony O'Sullivan

The presidents' council denounced dean of students Irwin Gopnik last week for failing to adequately consult students over the budget for student services.

The denunciation, in a letter to Gopnik obtained by the *Daily*, follows a bitter dispute over the way the dean of students handled the budget. In a senate meeting two weeks ago Gopnik contended students had been given copies of the proposed budget three months before the Committee for Coordination of Student Services voted on the budget. Student members of the committee say they only had two days.

"As Dean of Students we would have hoped that you would have foreseen these concerns and taken steps to prevent them," states the letter from the presidents council.

The controversial budget covers a wide range of student services, including chaplaincy, health services, athletics and the student employment centre. The budget contained a 2.5 per cent increase in student services fees.

The committee deciding on the

budget has equal numbers of students and staff members. The student members are the presidents of Students' Society and the faculty associations.

Student members complain they had little time to consult with their constituents.

"The only reason I voted against the final version of the proposed budget was because I had no time to consider it carefully," said Scott Mitic, president of the Students' Society. "At the same time I don't think all the fault lay on one side. As students we had plenty of chances to consider draft proposals. But many of us are first timers in the process, and as a result we were caught off guard."

Non-students on the committee are unsympathetic to students' concerns.

"I don't understand what all the students were so upset about. There was ample time to ask questions in January," said Helen Anderson, a representative of the library staff.

"And the last minute changes to the budget which caused the outcry

were minor. It probably cost more for us to have these three hour meetings which accomplish very little."

Anderson said a few students were noticeably absent from the early finance committee meetings. Anderson also asserted that this year's representatives should have been 'clued in' by their predecessors.

The budget was approved by Senate two weeks ago — over unanimous opposition from student representatives — and is almost certain to be approved by the Board of Governors.

A similar conflict blew up over last year's student services budget, said Mitic. Members of the President's Council want to prevent the same fiasco from happening next year. In the letter, the council members suggest that budget resolutions should be distributed to committee members two weeks before the budget meeting.

The council members also suggested increased "sensitivity" on Gopnik's part.

Gopnik did not return the *Daily's* calls.

City council shaken, not stirred

by Dave Ley

Montréal "jaded dinosaur" picked up the city hall's opposition crown last week, as several key defections elevated his party to official opposition status.

Long-time downtown city councillor and Civic Party leader Nick Auf-Der Maur took the official opposition title away from Democratic Coalition of Montréal (DCM) leader Sam Boskey.

This is the second time in seven months the opposition title has switched parties.

The shift occurred last week after two councillors, Michel Benoit and Pierre Gagnier defected to the Civic party. Benoit was originally a member of the Civic party, while Gagnier sat as an independent.

The newly-empowered Party will receive an office, a secretary and gain more money for research.

Auf-Der Maur said the title of official opposition will contribute to a more diverse debate within city council. "The MCM does not represent the diversity of Montréal, the DCM even less," said Auf-Der Maur. "We are trying to make the Civic Party a broad umbrella group representing many interests."

"The DCM has been little more than a windbag, opposition party," he added.

The Civic party has been quasi-moribund since its fall from power in 1986. Under the rule of Mayor Jean Drapeau, the Civic Party held city hall in its grasp for over thirty years. With the recent defections it now has four members on council.

Boskey said the loss of opposition is not a major setback and will not really change the balance of discussion on council.

"This is more a minor inconvenience than anything

else. We just gained the title of opposition last October and we had done a lot of work before that," said Boskey.

He said the change is more a reflection of problems within the MCM. "The fact that yet another MCM councillor has left the party shows how the MCM hasn't managed to keep their left or right happy."

But members of the MCM said the latest defections from the party represent more of a cleansing than a crumbling.

"The last malcontents have left the party to go where their hearts are," said MCM councillor Saulie Zoydel.

"This will allow the MCM to become more comprehensive and effective."

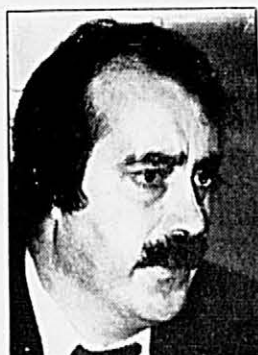
The latest shakeup leaves both the DCM and the Civic Party with four seats and the MCM with 40 of the 51 seats in council.

With Auf-Der Maur as opposition leader, many observers question the Civic Party's legitimacy as well as Auf-Der Maur's competence.

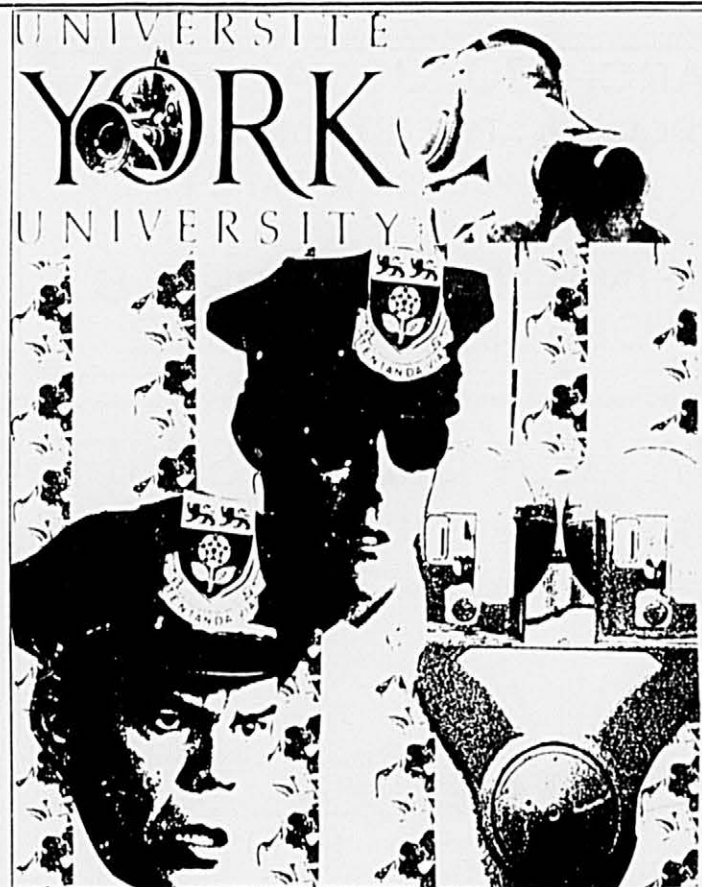
"The title of opposition gives a chance for the Civic party to represent one of the most retrograde ideologies in North America," said Ecology Montréal member Dimitri Roussopoulos. "It gives legitimacy to a conservative ideology long since discredited."

Boskey pointed out that Auf-Der Maur rarely sits through council meetings, and only speaks out when he can make a joke. "He is very witty in council and attracts a lot of attention, but he rarely does his homework on issues and is never a team person."

Auf-Der Maur said he was pleased about council's shift away from the left. "There are just so many pinko-commie social worker types dominating council," he said. "Not that social workers are bad things, but you should also have business people and others contributing to a more informed, diverse debate."



The Nick in question



DAILY GRAPHIC: JAMES FORBES

York hires spies to watch students at work

by Doug Saunders

TORONTO (CUP) - York University has hired investigators to spy on student parking lot attendants.

"I don't know of any other place, at least in this country, where they do this to such a degree," said Walter Gosley, president of local 1962 of the union which represents York's parking lot staff.

According to Gosley, the investigators often pose as parking customers and try to talk attendants out of charging them. Employees are also monitored by people who watch them through binoculars from nearby buildings.

Two students and one full-time employee have been fired this year following undercover investigations. In 1991, three students were fired due to evidence gathered during surveillance, but they were reinstated after filing a union grievance.

"Normally, employers would be watching the amounts of money to see if there's less money than there's supposed to be. Here they're watching all the employees," Gosley said.

"I think the employer has a right to protect their income, but I don't know about the way they go about it at York."

Pam MacDonald, executive director of York Security, said the practice is part of annual auditing procedures done "to make sure cash handling procedures are being followed."

But Valerie Connell, an experienced attendant and union steward, said the surveillance — performed randomly throughout the year, as well as during the year-end audit — leaves many attendants afraid and distrustful.

"I'm a totally honest worker, but I don't like the fact that there may be somebody watching me through binoculars to see when I light up a cigarette," Connell said. "It's really kind of creepy."

Parking lot attendants said the possibility of being watched forces them to follow the rules rigidly, even in emergency situations.

"The operating manual says we should use our own discretion in exceptional cases, but then these undercover guys come along and tell us it's an emergency, and ask to go in and out for free, and we get fired for it," one attendant said.

Another attendant said York Security has destroyed morale by firing employees instead of communicating with them.

"They're not using the information that they've acquired (from the surveillance) positively," the attendant said. "They haven't sat down and tried to communicate. What they're doing is basically just making accusations. In some ways it's almost entrapment."

Gosley said one student attendant was fired for being too friendly with motorists.

"I can't get rid of the impression of a university — which is supposed to be an open, free environment — doing this sort of thing," he said. "I just don't understand the rationale, doing this to students. It's like the secret police."

DAILY
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Mr. Fuentes will also speak on "The Imagination of America" on the morning of Saturday, March 28th, 1992 as part of the colloquium "Encounters with the 'Other': Spain in the New World." For further information, contact the Department of Hispanic Studies, Samuel Bronfman Building, McGill University.

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Ontario African Studies programs beat McGill

by Sharon Stewart

African Studies programs at York University and University of Toronto are now broader and more attractive to students. But at McGill, students say the program needs to be changed.

Professor Dixon Eyoh, coordinator of the African Studies program at York said the program lacked direction because of the marginalization of the discipline.

"Insufficient numbers of potential faculty in the area of Toronto is an obstacle to the program's future growth," he said. "But student interest in African Studies has been growing steadily over the past few years."

African Studies at York is an interdisciplinary program in the departments of anthropology, economics, history, political science and sociology. There are three black, full-time faculty teaching in the program, one of whom is a visiting professor.

"The program's inception 15 years ago was free of resistance," said Eyoh. "It started out as an agglomeration of courses with African content already in existence and was not seen as threatening."

On the whole York's program is Africa-centered, but a history course on slavery in Africa and the Americas is also being offered.

More receptive

A similar program exists at Uni-

versity of Toronto's New College. African Studies at U of T is offered in the same departments as at York.

Professor Bernard Moitt, director of African studies, is optimistic about the program's future.

"We are making some progress, but it's slow and it's taken a good struggle. The university seems to be more receptive to change now than previously."

But the African Students' Union efforts to get departmental status for African Studies were rejected. Moitt said that based on a review of the program held in November of 1990, "departmental status for African Studies is unlikely."

The core courses in African Studies, as at York, are Africa-centered. Supplemental courses, which have any African content or content on blacks in the Southern United States and the Caribbean, are accepted as part of the program.

Summer courses in languages like Swahili and Wolof will be taught at U of T by native speakers. Like York, there are only three black professors teaching within the program.

Politics lacking

The African Studies program at McGill is little known. While its structured in much the same way as York's and U of T's, it is quite different.

"The African Studies program at McGill lacks political curriculum, it lacks any politics of today," said Christine Archer, an African-Can-

dian political science student.

"There is nothing that deals with ideologies specific to Black people."

Over the past few years, large numbers of courses in African Studies have been listed, but not offered. Next year, roughly 20 per cent of the courses listed in the calendar will not be offered.

Archer feels that the program at McGill lacks direction. "It's just a series of courses from different faculties thrown together under the heading of African Studies."

While learning an African language is encouraged, only Arabic is offered at McGill. Initiatives to learn other African languages must be made by the African Studies student.

"The courses we do have in African Studies are not broadly enough based. If they do focus on Africa, it's on the continent, not on the Africans," said sociology student Sogie Omoruyi.



NEWS BRIEFS

Food, wonderful, cheaper food

Students brought their proposal for a student run co-op in the Redpath cafeteria to the food and beverage committee yesterday.

Although the committee has yet to make a decision, co-op committee member Alisa Black was optimistic.

"There was very little negative comment," she said. "Their main concern seemed to be about money, which has been for the most part guaranteed."

The food and beverage committee was worried about the possible loss of revenue and the start up costs of the caf.

But the proposal ensured Student's Society their revenues. Co-op McGill, which runs the computer store, hinted they would provide the necessary capital.

The proposal, outlined by Rebecca Handford, called for a more varied menu with twenty per cent lower prices. The co-op would be student run, employing two full time workers and four part time employees at salaries matching those presently offered by Scott's.

The students who run the co-op will be directly responsible to an elected board of directors who will meet regularly to decide policy and address problems.

Handford was sure the co-op would be successful.

"The worst case scenario would be a twenty per cent drop in sales from this year — a record year for poor sales," she said. "Even if this is the case, we will still be able to break even."

Student's Society currently gets \$36 000 in revenues from the Redpath cafeteria.

-James Forbes

York students win demands against racism

TORONTO (CUP) — Three hundred York University students claimed victory last week after top administrators accepted their demands. The students were protesting racism by the campus security force.

"The whole thing was very well-organized and executed, so I'm not surprised the students won," said Chet Singh, York race relations officer.

The students' demands included the creation of external review committees to oversee the opera-

tions of York security and security at the campus pub. According to the demands, officers found guilty of discrimination will be fired. York will also hire a second full-time staff member for the race relations office.

"The demands weren't unreasonable," Singh said. "Students have a right to be on the campus unmolested and not be harassed by security employees here."

The meeting capped weeks of protest against York's full-time security force. Last month, officers asked three black students to produce their student cards, saying they looked "too young."

Other incidents cited by students include the alleged assault of a black female student by a bouncer at a campus pub, a parking lot attendant reportedly told a black student that "this is not the jungle," and the harassment of a black student studying quietly at the library.

"This represents only a few of the things students tell me they are frustrated about," said Singh. "As long as the curriculum continues to be European and male-centred, it sends a message to students that this isn't their place."

U de M elections an acclamation fest

Almost all of the executive positions were acclaimed in Université de Montréal's student federation elections last weekend.

Incumbent vp external Michel Sardi was acclaimed as next year's general secretary of the Fédération

des Associations Etudiantes du Campus de L'Université de Montréal (FAECUM).

In total, eight of the 10 executive positions were acclaimed.

"I am hoping to have more student participation within FAECUM," said Sardi. "Students should have a better knowledge of the structure of FAECUM and have more influence on committees."

FAECUM is a founding member and powerful voice within the La Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ). Sardi himself was active in the campaign to keep McGill in FEUQ during Students' Society referendum.

"I'm a bit disappointed with McGill pulling out of FEUQ, but that's democracy," said Sardi. "We will still continue contact with McGill though. I have talked to Jason Prince already and it sounds hopeful that we can keep the links together."

-by Dave Ley, with info from Continuum

Printer pulls penis graphic

Wolfville, N.S. (CUP) — Acadia University's student newspaper was denuded of a graphic by its printer last week.

The edition of the *Athenaeum* included a graphic of an erect penis with a caption that read, "Sexism rears its unprotected head. Men: Use Condoms or Beat it. AIDS kills women." The graphic accompanied an article on safer sex.

A Kentville Publishing employee told *Athenaeum* business manager Dave Matthews they removed the graphic because it contradicted their corporate standards and ethics.

Matthews said the paper was unable to use another printer.

"The option of going to another printer didn't really exist because it would have meant going to Halifax, which neither time nor money would have allowed," he said.

The graphic has been widely distributed by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, and has been reprinted in other student newspapers, including the *Daily*.

Matthews said the paper substituted another graphic, but he thought the printer's decision was unfair and reduced the impact of the safer sex message.

Acadia University sociology professor Gary Kinsman agreed.

"It is my sense that heterosexual men on campus are poorly educated about AIDS and don't see that they could be putting women at risk," he said.

"The graphic had a clear context, and, by removing it, Kentville Publishing diluted the message of safer sex."

Kinsman said it is sometimes necessary to offend in order to communicate a message effectively.

But Acadia University lawyer Carol Daniel said the publisher was within its rights to yank the graphic in order to avoid an obscenity charge from police.

"Free speech is not absolute," she said.

Brian Iler, an attorney for Canadian University Press, disagreed. Charges were unlikely because the graphic was not "an undue exploitation of sex" as defined by the Canadian Criminal Code, he said.

Last spring, a student paper at Memorial University in Newfoundland was threatened with criminal charges for printing a safer sex guide for gay men. Student papers across the country published the article in a show of solidarity.



Michel Sardi of FAECUM

DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

If your nose is out of joint, picket

It's hard to be a privileged, university-educated radical type these days. Most of our classmates seem to be more concerned with upward mobility or the next frat party than with sweeping social change. And it often seems there is little we can do to change society, especially when final exams are fast approaching.

Each week, there seems to be another demonstration on some issue. A lot of time, work and energy goes into organizing these things, but they seldom accomplish what they are designed to and often do little more than relieve our consciences and assert our identities as radical leftist types.

We constantly feel the need to *do something*, or at least to *feel* as though we are doing something. So we go out and demonstrate, waving our signs and chanting our slogans. (eg "hey hey, ho ho, bla bla bla has got to go")

Demonstrations are intended to send out a message, but that message reaches and convinces only a limited number of people — usually the participants. Demonstrations might draw public attention as obstacles to traffic, but whether anyone pays attention to the ideas of the demonstrators is another matter.

And media coverage doesn't make demonstrations any more effective as a means of communication. It takes much more to change peoples' minds than TV images of a crowd of people marching down a street, and soundbite-size pieces of peoples' opinions.

And while 500 people marching together can be a show of strength and commitment to a cause, in most cases, 50 people marching is less than inspiring. We should also examine whether, in being so quick to go marching down a street chanting in unison, we are demonstrating noble solidarity or slavish conformity.

After all, Shriners go on parade as well.

We need to rethink the way we operate, and the way we put our politics into action. We need to stop marching around like robots chanting slogans and come up with some effective strategies to subvert the political system. Creating a public spectacle for the TV news cameras might be satisfying, but it is not very effective as a medium of communication.

We need to integrate ourselves with the community, to get our hands dirty and put our opinions to work. There are many community organizations out there in desperate need of volunteers. And if none suit you, start your own.

Fiona McCaw

Peter Clibbon

LETTERS

ed note: Alex, David, Kevin and Philippe, and André. Come on down, put your letters on the special Daily diet plan. We have a 300 word limit.

ed note: Anonymous letters will not be printed unless you speak to an editor first and explain why anonymity is desired.

Like a Prayer

To the Daily:

The "Women's Trivia" column of March 9 recycles an ancient canard about Pope Joan, the female pope supposedly stoned to death after her cover as a man was blown when she went into childbirth during a papal procession. Passing off dusty legends like this as truth won't do much good for the reputation of feminist scholarship.

The legend of Papa Joanna was a popular Protestant slander against the Roman Catholic Church. It reflects an extremely negative view of women, saying in effect that the worst thing imaginable would be a holy institution

run by female authority.

If you want a viable historical feminist empowerment figure who has the added virtue of having actually existed, check out Marozia of the House of Theophylact, a 10th century Roman senatrix who may have been the inspiration for the Pope Joan legend. Marozia's political power and ruthlessness enabled her to control Rome and the papacy through her wimp son, John XI. XI only got the job because Marozia put him there, having first had his predecessor, John X whacked. X was the lover of Marozia's mother, Theodora, who in turn had given him his job as pope. But that's another story.

Of course, a female pope makes a better feminist icon than a pope's domineering mommy, but Marozia was apparently also sexually active and autonomous in a big, big way, which ought to be worth a couple of Madonna points in her favour.

May I just add that there's no such person as Santa Claus, the story about Catherine the Great and the horse is entirely false, and a piece of gum doesn't



matching tie and handkerchief.

deodorant shoe liners.

a second clip of ammunition.

LETTERS

really stay in your stomach for seven years if you swallow it.

V. Macpherson
U1 Arts

Beam me up

To the Daily:

But seriously, why stop at "The William Shatner University Centre"? What about changing Gert's Pub to "Kirk's" (Who is Gert, anyway?). Then I think it'd be appropriate to re-name the Union Ballroom to "The Transporter Room". And how about changing the Alley to "T J Hooker's"? Perhaps, even CKUT could switch frequencies to (Rescue) 91.1 ...

Damnit, Jim, I'm being ironic!

J. Torres
U3 Arts

ed note: Gert's, formerly Gertrude's, was named after Gertrude Stein

From Russia with love

To the Daily:

I would like to correct a grievous error on your part concerning the cover page of your March 16 edition in which you dealt with the recently elected SSMU executives and their past Politburo positions.

While some of your attributions

were undoubtedly correct, I can say without equivocation that Ms. Julie Dzerowicz, newly elected VP Internal has never had any relationship to the NKVD nor its predecessor, the Cheka, nor its successor the KGB.

On a personal note, reports of her affair with Lenin were grossly exaggerated (they were just good friends).

Please direct further questions to the Russian Consulate.

Todd Roberts
U3 B. Comm

OK, Men can get pregnant

To the Daily:

The single stupidest thing in your paper this past week has been the cartoon entitled "OK, Men Can Make Abortion Laws..." (March 12).

Why?

Because recent public opinion surveys in Canada and the US reveal that men, not women, have more liberal attitudes towards abortion. Check *Gallup Poll Monthly*, April 1990, page 4: 10 per cent of American men think abortion should always be illegal, as opposed to 13 per cent of women. 57 per cent of men say yes to "legal under certain circumstances," as opposed to

50 per cent of women. Only in the "always legal" category do pro-choice men trail behind, by a paltry 2 per cent margin the count is 30:32).

A Canadian poll by Decima a few years back yielded similar results. Do I have to spell out the connections between public opinion, the ballot box and abortion policy?

Regardless of social realities, however, *Daily* feminists are ideologically committed to re-writing the abortion question into a form that accords with their complex, universe-encompassing theoretical system (to wit, *men are bad*). All of this moaning about "the backlash" is getting tiresome, coming as it does from a campus movement whose carp-brained propagandists are simply too thick-witted to distinguish foes from potential allies.

Because I realize that the fact of men's greater support for choice will be an ideological embarrassment to many feminists, I offer them, free of charge, this handy explanation:

it merely reflects the innate reproductive irresponsibility of beastly males.

C. Doerksen
Arts, visiting

HYDE PARK

The following is the opinion of the Québec Public Interest Research Group Board of Directors: Hafiz Maherali, Peter King Aaron Freeman, Danièle Mackinnon, Shelagh Montgomery, Darren Sigismund, Fiona Deller, and Rachel Rosen.

Four years ago, McGill students voted massively in favour of "the creation of a chapter of the Québec Public Interest Research Group at McGill." Our mandate has been to promote the student's role as citizen, by conducting research, education and action in issues of social concern.

The joint constitution is an aim to fulfill the mandate of creating a viable lobbying voice for students in Québec on social issues. All meetings discussing the constitution, and there have been many, are posted and all members (members include all full-time students at McGill, Concordia and University of Montréal) are encouraged to attend and give their input. We feel that rather than reduce student input into the organization, the new constitution would increase students' voice on social issues in Québec. Currently, about one third of our budget goes into joint projects such as our newsmagazine *Perspectives* and the Better Waste Management Project.

These projects are arguably those that have met the greatest success and involve the most students. The constitution will be put to a general meeting vote on March

28, and we are actively encouraging our members to attend this meeting.

The meeting where we decided to oppose the gym's expansion was announced in the *Daily* the day of the meeting. Students do not "overwhelmingly support" the gym project as it is currently proposed. Students have only voted to support funding for the proposed athletics facility. In fact, this design for the gym, which would encroach on a protected heritage site, has never been put to a student referendum. Québec PIRG is asked by a large number of community groups to take positions on issues of community concern. We do not have the resources, nor do we want to be, a polling group. We do what we think represents students' concerns as citizens, and invite students to bring input into our consensus decision-making process.

In the end, we are simply student volunteers. All we can do is be as open as possible to student input and criticism. For students who have concerns about the issues that we are involved in, we encourage them to come to our meetings, Mondays at 18h. Also the \$3 fee that is paid by all full-time students is refundable. We believe that Québec PIRG is an organization that is grassroots and effective. In the coming year, students will once again have a chance to support or deny the mandate of Québec PIRG in a campus-wide referendum.

For more info, call QPIRG at 398-7432.

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These walls have ears

Former U.S. President Richard Nixon has nothing to learn from Québec's provincial police force, the Sûreté du Québec. Long before Nixon had his enemies list and tape recorder, the S.Q. was embarking on a 'dirty tricks' campaign that would make even Nixon envious.

Most Québécois are already well aware of the S.Q.'s trigger happy image. Last summer, one day after testifying at a hearing on police brutality, Jeffrey Fortin was shot dead by an S.Q. officer who claimed Fortin was threatening him with an axe.

But few Québécois are aware of the S.Q. activities that don't kill people or catch criminals but instead violate the civil rights and liberties of citizens and organizations.

Last month, Montreal housing activist Myreille Audet was approached by the S.Q. to act as an informer on welfare and housing groups. Audet was singled out, in the words of Public Security Minister Claude Ryan, because "she often attends demonstrations." Ryan did not condemn the S.Q. for having approached Audet, but simply concluded the S.Q. might have chosen the wrong person.

Opposition politicians have been less forgiving.

"The S.Q. seems to have seriously confused the concepts of lawful dissent with subversion," said one Québec politician who wished to remain anonymous.

In interviews with the Montréal media, Audet said she felt intimidated by S.Q. intelligence officer Jacques Labrie. "He knew so much about me, my friends, my colleagues," she said. "He even knew what I had done when I was 17 or 18."

The S.Q. has supposedly been restrained from overt espionage on community activists and political groups

But Audet's experience suggests the S.Q. might be up to its old practices of spying and keeping files on innocent individuals and groups.

Covert surveillance

Audet is far from alone. Over the past few years, a number of cases of S.Q. undercover operations have surfaced, raising serious questions about the police's ethics and mandate. But in each of these cases, very little information was disclosed because the S.Q. has no public watchdog and is unaccountable to the National Assembly.

Last spring, Réjean Bontin, a resident of Hull admitted he had been paid \$200 a month by the S.Q. to spy on community groups in the Outaouais region from 1979 to 1987. At least one of these groups is now suing the S.Q. and the provincial government.

Many observers suspect Montréal native rights lawyer James O'Reilly is at least one of the targets of a recent covert surveillance operation involving the S.Q.

O'Reilly is well known for his work on behalf of the Alberta Lubicon, the Mohawks and the Grand Council of the Crees. He is also a leading opponent of Hydro-Québec's James Bay 2 project. Not surprisingly, he has few friends in either the Québec government or its giant utility, Hydro Québec.

Last November in the National Assembly, Public Security Minister Claude Ryan was asked if he was aware of the S.Q.'s role in investigating O'Reilly. Ryan said he was not aware of any such operation.

Hours following this exchange in the National Assembly, the Place Ville-Marie offices of the Grand Council of the Crees were broken into and robbed of their computer software. Strangely, the still-unknown robbers left behind the far more valuable hardware.

Since then, Ryan has reduced his response to the S.Q.'s standard line that the "force would never break the law."

When asked by CBC Newswatch anchor Denis Trudeau whether he had seen proof that his phones were tapped by the S.Q., O'Reilly replied, "Yes, I have." But neither Ryan nor any officer with the S.Q. attempted to contact O'Reilly to review his evidence or take a statement.

The subversive Alliance?

In the National Assembly exchange, Ryan also gave an answer to a question he had never been asked, exposing some of the S.Q.'s dirty laundry.

"I have been informed recently that some groups had been investigated a few years ago in connection with alleged subversive activities or intentions," he said.

Ryan assured the National Assembly these intelligence efforts had been completely dropped.

One S.Q. investigation that may fit into this category, and which went by with little public notice, was the S.Q.'s surveillance three years ago of Alliance-Québec's former office. During this surveillance, the office was burnt down by an arsonist attack that to this day remains unsolved.

What has never been adequately explained is why the offices were ever under surveillance in the first place. The S.Q. claimed their 24 hour-a-day operation was for Alliance's own safety and protection.

But no one ever bothered to advise Alliance-Québec that their safety was sufficiently in danger to warrant such an extensive operation.

This is not standard procedure according to R.C.M.P. Constable Greg Peters.

"The circumstances behind the S.Q.'s operation were highly unusual," Peters told the *Daily*. "If a group's safety is in

"I'm from the government..."



"I'm here to help you."

doubt we're certainly going to let that group know. You just can't eavesdrop at the drop of a hat."

Peters said R.C.M.P. policy requires that when an innocent group or individual is under surveillance, the innocent party must be provided with copies of any tapes or transcripts 30 days following the end of the investigation.

Alliance-Québec also doubted the S.Q.'s explanation.

"We were never satisfied with the response the S.Q. gave us and they certainly didn't provide copies of their tapes or transcripts," said Alliance director David Birnbaum.

If Alliance-Québec was under surveillance for their own safety, it certainly doesn't say much for the S.Q.'s competency when the office they're protecting burns down in front of them. Especially when the arsonist escaped in broad daylight.

The circumstances behind the surveillance have also led some observers to question the source of allegations that former Alliance director Royal Orr was a prime suspect in the arson printed in *La Journal de Montréal*.

A history of dirty tricks

Audet, O'Reilly, Bontin and Alliance-Québec are reminders that the S.Q. hasn't forgotten its roots. The organization was originally created to gather information on political opponents. For many years the S.Q. was the political instrument of its creator — former Québec Premier Maurice Duplessis.

Newspaper archives are littered with the tales of S.Q. dirty tricks played out at the expense of news reporters, community activists and public groups.

Gérard Mackenzie, president of the Ligue des Droits et Libertés, said the S.Q.'s tactics show an intent to intimidate certain Québécois by "showing them they are being watched."

Yet the question remains, at whose request and knowledge are these operations being undertaken?

In a recent study, Université de Montréal criminologist Jean-Paul Brodeur wrote that when the S.Q.'s questionable activities are exposed, highly visible "proceedings" are staged against individual officers to "placate public opinion rather than to reform the force itself."

This practise effectively insures the public will never learn the real purpose behind many of the S.Q.'s shady intelligence operations.



by Dermot Travis

for many years. After the 1976 victory of the pro-independence Parti Québécois, Premier René Lesvesque ordered the S.Q. to destroy intelligence files accumulated by the force.

Building bionic Body bits



by Ted James

In the future, people blind from birth will be able to see using light-sensitive artificial implants.

At a medical facility in Dallas, physicians treat paralysis by supplementing damaged nerves with synthetic fibres.

These cases are from the world of fiction, but researchers believe the field of biomedical engineering will soon be capable of treating injury and disease in remarkable new ways.

A recent development attracting a considerable amount of interest is the creation of a synthetic fibre with properties similar to muscle tissue. Dr. I. W. Hunter, an associate professor of biomedical engineering at McGill, is heading this research.

"When subjected to an electrical pulse, the fibre contracts with a very strong force — with several fibres arranged in parallel, it is similar in definition to a muscle," said a grad student from Hunter's lab. The fibre, made of nickel and titanium, is unique in that it moves without using gears or rotary motors. The "artificial muscle," as it has been dubbed, is still in very early stages of development.

One of the most notable projects currently taking place at McGill is the work of Dr. Hollerbach's robotics lab.

Hollerbach's research team has created a four-fingered hand which functions using mechanical tendons. The hand is controlled by moving a human hand inside a "Master Glove" which uses position sensors to measure joint and finger angles.

The information is fed into a computer, which uses the data to make the robotic hand imitate the movements of the hand in the glove.

The second step in the development of the hand is to add a type of virtual reality system, which would allow the human hand to "feel" what the robot hand experiences.

"When the robot hand touches a cup, your glove should press very lightly on your fingertips so that you actually feel the sensation of touch," said Rob Rohling, a researcher in Hollerbach's lab.

Hollerbach's team is also working on a robotic arm. Equipped with a hydraulic actuator, rotary motor systems, and high resolution optical encoders, the arm is much more powerful and versatile than the human version. Hydro Québec has plans to use the arm for hazardous tasks in powerline maintenance. "A number of people get fried every year changing powerlines," said Hollerbach. "The robot arm would be used instead to do the dirty work." There is also a contract with the U.S. Navy to employ the arm in underwater operations.

According to Dr. R.E. Kearney, chair of

McGill's Biomedical Engineering Unit, the basic goal of the field of Biomedical Engineering is to obtain an extensive understanding of how biological systems work.

"If you understand how the normal system works, then you are in a position to understand what's gone wrong in a disease, and how to fix it."

Kearney described some of the unit's on-going projects.

One project is a treatment for spinal cord injuries. It is designed for those patients suffering paralysis, but whose muscles are still intact.

"The idea is, can you electrically stimulate these muscles and generate forces? And the answer is, yes you can," said Kearney.

In cases of mechanical damage to the ear, another area of research is a treatment for deafness using an electrode to stimulate the auditory nerves, which carry sensations from the ear to the brain.

"You replace the cochlea, essentially the sensor of the ear, and put a stimulating electrode there," said Kearney. The technique, although crude, is showing some success in early clinical testing.

WOMEN'S BRIEFS

Female condom resembles melted slinky

What do you do when you've created dozens of devices that make contraception a woman's duty and only one that makes it a man's? Why, create *another* one for women, of course, and preferably one that replaces the man's.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel has recently OK'd a female condom. Doubts about the product revolve around concerns as to how effective the vaginal liner is as a contraceptive and the trouble many women had using it successfully during trials.

The female version, called "Reality," looks like a regular condom, except there are rings on either end. The ring on the closed end fits over the cervix, somewhat like a diaphragm. The polyurethane tube extends along the vaginal walls, and the open ring on the other side stays outside the body. How it stays in this position is not exactly clear.

In trials, the condom often did not stay in place during intercourse. Despite these concerns, the FDA recommended Reality's approval, citing an overwhelming societal need for women to be able to protect themselves against STDs.

Carol Pearson of the National Women's Health Network testified that a new form of pregnancy and disease protection was desperately needed because "until now, a heterosexual woman's best protection against AIDS depended entirely on the cooperation of her partner."

While Pearson statements reflect the sorry state in men's ethics regarding sex and responsibility, the appearance of yet another contraceptive for women raises other questions. If men won't use male condoms, what makes anyone think they'll be willing to assist women in using what appears to be a tricky device, at best? Should huge amounts of time, energy and money go into developing something that lets men off the hook again?

Abortions in Poland

Abortion is still legal in Poland. But the country's medical society has adopted a policy to revoke licences of physicians who perform abortions, except in cases of rape or when the woman's life is endangered.

The new policy, which takes effect in May, calls for an investigation of any physician who has violated the society's internal code of ethics. The code was amended so that doctors are obliged to save lives "beginning at conception."

When the press asked society president T.L. Chrusciel if the code would allow for immediate action against physicians, he was elated "Yes, that's exactly what we're hoping for. This is a historic opportunity." Doctors could appeal to the Polish Supreme Court if their licences are revoked.

But Frances Kissling of Catholics for a Free Choice, (who worked with pro-choice activists in Poland) questioned the court's ability to act on women's rights.

"It's doubtful that it's legal for the medical society to take away a license of a physician performing a legal procedure. Given some of the court's past actions, it doesn't seem to pay scrupulous attention to legal or ethical norms when it comes to women's rights."

First lesbian adoption case

Last month, "Mama D" became the proud adoptive parent of her lover's six year old boy — the first such adoption by a lesbian or gay couple in New York State. Gay rights activists hailed the ruling, made by Manhattan Surrogate Court Judge Eve Preminger. They said it could be used as a precedent to help others adopt children.

— compiled from Ms. and off our backs

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

1 - Housing

Beautiful 4 1/2, Sublet. May-Aug. Option to renew. Fully furnished, clean, bright, washer & dryer in apt. 2 min. to McGill. 284-6313. Leave message!

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3 - Help Wanted

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Jobs in Banff, Lake Louise & Jasper. Complete guide to summer employment based on extensive job assessment in Canadian Rockies. For info. on these job openings, wages, accommodation and more: \$14.95 ck or M.O. to Student Employment Services: #2201, 221-6 Ave. S.E. Calgary, AB. T2G 4Z9 or call (403) 237-8574.

Courage! If you have the courage to answer this recorded message, it could make you rich. (362-3607)

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Urgent! Summer Employment

Opportunity! Université de Sherbrooke has 15 positions available for socio-cultural monitors at their English summer school for francophones. Contact McGill's Career Placement Centre. Deadline: March 25, 1992.

Counselors Wanted. Trim down-fitness, co-ed, NYS camp. 100 positions: sports, crafts, many others. Camp Shane, Quaker Hill Court, Croton, NY 10520 (914) 271-2103.

FOREIGN STUDENTS wanted for consultation and liaison with law firm specializing in INVESTMENT and IMMIGRATION in CANADA. Call Me. Kugler at **PASSPORT CANADA**, 1 Place Ville Marie, suite 3611, Montreal, H3B 3P2, Tel.: 878-1532 or Fax 878-4761.

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14 - Notices

Get your bike ready for summer! The Students' Society is sponsoring a bicycle repair workshop on Sat. April

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Feed your brain with more than knowledge - Eat better, Feel great!

McGill Student Health Services

EVENTS

Wednesday, March 25

It's the last day for Peer Academic Advising for Arts & Science students. 12h-16h, Union 107/108 & Education 302.

Nominations for the Arab Student Assoc. end at 16h in Union 402.

A forum on James Bay II is being held at Université de Montréal, 2900 Edouard Montpetit, room E-310. 19h. Panelists include Dianne Reid, Brian Craik, Denis Lazure, and Gille Dolphin.

Hillel is having an information meeting for the Hillel Israel trip. Hillel House, 3460 Stanley, 19h.

International Socialists meet today on "The World Economy Today." Union 310, 19h30.

Simcha Jacobovic, director of "Deadly Currents" will be in Leacock 132 for a screening of the film followed by discussion. 19h30.

McGill Choral Society is having their 10th Anniversary concert. Featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria* and popular music. Erskine and American United Church, corner Sherbrooke and avenue du Musée, 19h30. \$4 donation.

McGill Improv's 4th Annual tournament continues in the Union, 3480 McTavish, 3rd floor, 19h30. \$4 students/\$6 non-students.

EVENTS HI-LITE

Do threats to university accessibility stoke your furnace? Or do unfair "service" charges such as the infamous "course materials charge" get your goat? Now that we're out of the clasp of the FEUQ-beast, it's McGill students' chance to form something new in the student movement—an organization that lobbies for accessible education, not discount cards and glossy magazines. One topic that will be discussed is Students' Society's role in assembling Montréal universities together to act on mutually-shared concerns.

Accessible Education Now! meets at 16h30 in Union 310.

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED...

for our research in immunology involving skin testing, blood donation and tiny pieces of skin. If interested please come to an information meeting at the Donner Building, Room 319 on Friday, March 27th 12:30-1:00 or Monday, March 30th 4:30-5:00. We offer an honorarium of \$100.

In an effort to keep our readers up to date with the happenings on the city's other campuses, the Daily has compiled the best of the Montréal student press.

Auction turns ugly

A "servant for a day" auction at Vanier CEGEP raised tempers last month, eventually leading to a megaphone tug-of-war between auction organizers and angry students.

Students, including members of the Quest for Afrikan Knowledge, questioned the appropriateness of holding a "slave auction" during Black history month.

Vanier student association president and auction organizer Rob Ephraim apologized after the event.

Several people suffered minor injuries, including a photographer from the College student paper, *The Phoenix*.

—*The Phoenix, Vanier College*

Radio UQAM?

Students at Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) have come one step closer to gaining access to the airwaves. After holding a poll, more than 70 per cent of UQAM students said they would be willing to front \$2 a year for a radio station.

However, according to Radio-Québec director Bernard Benoist, the existence of two FM university radio stations in Montréal (namely CKUT, and CISM at U de M) is Radio-UQAM's biggest obstacle.

Also in question is the initial start-up costs, which has been estimated at \$100 000. According to members of CISM, the cost is closer to \$150 000.

—*Montréal Campus, UQAM*

Cashing in on Lotteries

If you can't win lotteries, you can at least get a grant to study them. That's what Concordia computer science prof. Clement Lam did and he received a \$27 000 grant from Loto-Québec to study efficient gambling strategies.

Lam is known for his research on predicting the outcome of British soccer matches. Placing the perfect combination of bets for a win, lose or draw, Lam won a world record 216 times.

Similar hockey pools exist in Québec. However, Loto-Québec officials said the research provides them with "no immediate benefits."

—*Thursday Report, Concordia*

McGill avant-garde on sexual harassment

In an article on university sexual harassment procedures, McGill is lauded as having the most innovative sexual harassment policy. This compared to the uninspiring policy implemented by Université de Montréal officials in 1990.

"Only eight cases have been investigated since September," writes Richard Varela. "Can this really reflect the reality of over 40 000 students and employees?"

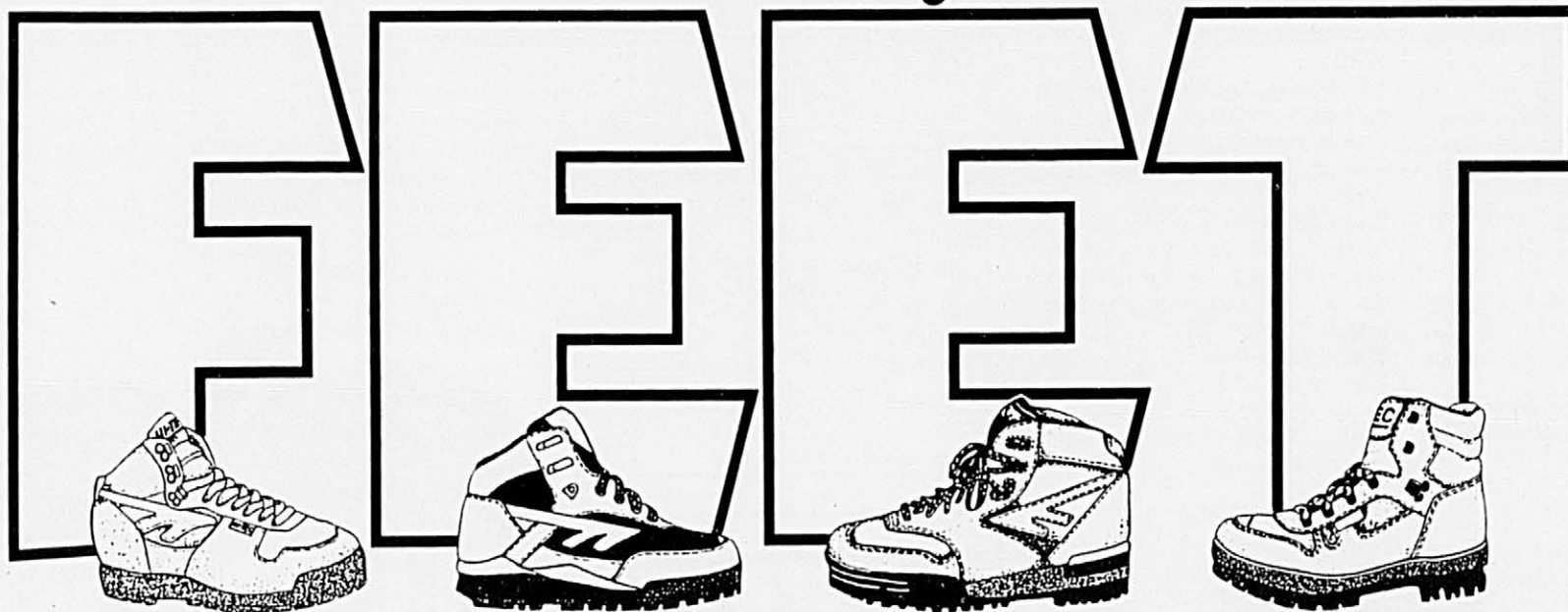
U of M's procedure attempts to mediate the conflict between the alleged harasser and the complainant by counselling. If this fails, a formal inquiry is initiated, with the university rector having the final say.

McGill's procedure was better because more staff were delegated to deal with sexual harassment, and the McGill apparatus handled a larger number of complaints.

—*Continuum, U de M*



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